GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4658
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2006
SALE OF FOODGRAIN IN OPEN MARKET
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of wheat and rice released by the Food Corporation of India in the open market during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding the factors influencing the operation cost of foodgrains;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the price at which wheat and rice were sold in the open market and the price at which the same was exported alongwith the subsidy given by the Government thereon during the last three years and the current year, year-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a): The quality of wheat sold in open market under the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) [OMSS (D)] during the last three years has been as under:-

Year	Qty. (lakh MT)
2003-04	9.23
2004-05	2.39
2005-06	10.50
Total	22.12

Stocks of old, procured under relaxed specifications (URS) and `D` category rice which are not acceptable to the States under the Targeted Public Distribution and Other Welfare Schemes are sold in open market by the FCI through tenders from time to time. The quantity of such stocks of rice tendered during the last three year was as under:

Year	Qty. (MT)
2003-04	83, 610
2004-05	20, 341
2005-06	5, 219
Total	1, 09, 170

(b) & (c): Factors influencing the Economic Cost of foodgrains including the operation cost are regularly reviewed and steps as required are taken to contain the cost of the foodgrains.

(d): Prices fixed for disposal of wheat under the OMSS (D) during the last three years are given in the Statement at Annexure-I Stocks of rice were sold through tenders at and above the cut off prices decided by High Level Committee (HLC) of the FCI on the basis of rates received in the respective tenders. Prices fixed for sale of rice and wheat for export purpose during the last three years are given in Statement at Annexure-II.

The food subsidy released in respect of foodgrains sold under Open Sale and Exports during the last three years is as under:

Year Subsidy released (Rs. in crore)

	Open Sale	Exports
2003-04	801.57	4153.11
2004-05	397.05	981.03
2005-06	121.37	14.55#

The figures include subsidy released in respect of coarse grains.

This amount is in respect of Arrears released to the FCI this year for foodgrains sold during past years.